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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,110	07/29/2003	Rory L. Block	1842.224US1	6981
70648	7590	09/20/2007		
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG & WOESSNER/WMS GAMING			EXAMINER	
P.O. BOX 2938			D'AGOSTINO, PAUL ANTHONY	
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/629,110

Applicant(s)

BLOCK ET AL.

Examiner

Paul A. D'Agostino

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,319,125 to Acres (Acres).

In Reference to Claims 1 and 9

Acres discloses a method of communication in a gaming network (Fig. 5 “bonusing promotion system” Col. 1 Line 17) having a central server linked to a plurality of gaming terminals (Fig. 5 and “bonus promotion system 350 includes a bonus server 351 which is the central control point for each of the bonus promotions” Col. 17 Lines 20-21; “or several bonus servers” 370 Col. 27 Lines 32-33 and “bonus server interconnected to a plurality of gaming devices” Col. 1 Lines 18-19), the method comprising:

receiving a primary event message (“system 350 communicates with the bonus server 351 (370) via messages exchanged as data packages.” Col. 27 Lines 25-27) in a routing queue (Fig. 24 “Meters” 134 and Col. 50 Lines 40-67) of the central server from one of the plurality of gaming terminals (Fig. 24 “Gaming Device Communication” 128) {the central server including an association data structure (Fig. 24 “Message Engine”

156) that facilitates identification of at least one application to process the primary event message ("All messages are directed to the Message Engine, which in turn, decides what actions need to be taken. Col. 51 Lines 44-46 and Fig. 24 functions 155A()-155J() and modules 126, 128, 146, 148, 150, 152, and 154 and Col. 51 Lines 37-60); }

processing the primary event message to identify a first application queue associated with a first application to process the primary event message using an association data structure (Fig. 24 "Message Engine" 156) and the association data structure storing an association of the primary event message to at least the first application queue (Fig. 24 functions 155A()-155J() and modules 126, 128, 146, 148, 150, 152, and 154 and Col. 51 Lines 37-60); and

transmitting the received primary event message to the identified first application queue ("All messages are directed to the Message Engine, which in turn, decides what actions need to be taken i.e. which module interfaces functions must be called." Col. 51 Lines 44-46 and Fig. 35 "message queue" 372 of bonus server 370).

In Reference to Claims 2 and 4

Acres discloses retrieving the primary event message from the first application queue with the first application and processing the primary event message with the first application (Fig. 35 step 373 and Fig. 36 "RPM (Receive)" Routine routes message) and Acres discloses a method wherein the gaming network further includes executing the first application on a secondary server in communication with the central server ("a meter broadcast packet originals from a concentrator 352 and is received by several

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bonus servers 370 for communicating meter information potentially utilized by several bonus servers 370 in the funding of their respective bonus promotions.” Col. 27 Lines 31-35).

In Reference to Claims 3 and 5

Acres discloses generating a secondary event message from the processing of the primary event message (Fig. 36 whereby a “No” response to “Message for this bonus server?” generates a second message back to the RPM for re-routing) and transmitting, processing, and transmitting the secondary event message to the {identified} second application queue (system is capable of performing this function as explained in claims 1 and 2 similar to a primary event message and to a second queue e.g. “queue” 370).

In Reference to Claims 6 and 7

Acres discloses a method wherein the gaming terminal generates the primary event message (“A meters queue 134 stores the values of meters from the gaming device.” Col. 50 Line 64-65) and comprising processing the secondary event message to identify the gaming terminal that generated the primary event message (system is capable of performing this intended use).

In Reference to Claim 8

Acres discloses a gaming network (Fig. 5 “bonusing promotion system” Col. 1

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Line 17) comprising:

a gaming terminal (Fig. 1) for generating an event message ("values of the meters" Col. 50 Line 64); and

a central server in communication with the gaming terminal (Fig. 5 and "bonus promotion system 350 includes a bonus server 351 which is the central control point for each of the bonus promotions" Col. 17 Lines 20-21; and "bonus server interconnected to a plurality of gaming devices" Col. 1 Lines 18-19), the central server including,

a routing queue (Fig. 24 "Meters" 134 and Col. 50 Lines 40-67) operable to receive a plurality of event messages ("system 350 communicates with the bonus server 351 (370) via messages exchanged as data packages." Col. 27 Lines 25-27) including the event message for one or more applications (Fig. 24 "Gaming Device Communication" 128 and "All messages are directed to the Message Engine, which in turn, decides what actions are to be taken (which module interfaces are to be called" Col. 51 Lines 44-46);

a plurality of application queues (Fig. 24 "Meters" and Fig. 35 "queues 372, 375, and 379), each application queue operable to receive one or more event messages of the plurality of event messages (system is capable of performing this function), each application queue associated with an application of the one or more applications to process received one or more event messages in the application queue (Fig. 35 whereby queues are associated with "meter calculation manager" and "configuration service manager");

an association data structure ((Fig. 24 "Message Engine" 156) operable to establish an association between the plurality of event messages and at least one application queue of the plurality of application queues (Fig. 24 functions 155A()-155J()) and modules 126, 128, 146, 148, 150, 152, and 154 and Col. 51 Lines 37-60),

wherein the central server is operable to receive the plurality of event messages in the routing queue, identify via the association data structure at least one application queue of the plurality of application queues corresponding with the received plurality of event messages, and transmit the received plurality of event messages to the at least one application queue identified via the association data structure ("All messages are directed to the Message Engine, which in turn, decides what actions need to be taken i.e. which module interfaces functions must be called." Col. 51 Lines 44-46 and Fig. 35 "message queue" 372 of bonus server 370).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul A. D'Agostino whose telephone number is (571) 270-1992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hotaling can be reached on (571) 272-4437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Paul A. D'Agostino
Examiner
Art Unit 3714